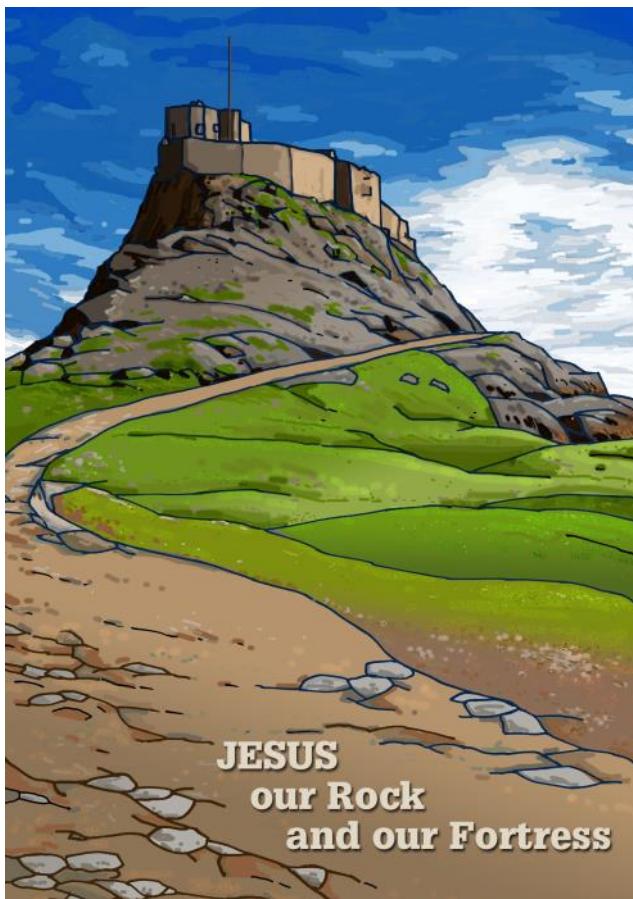




The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

# Bamford Chapel & Norden URC



**JESUS**  
our Rock  
and our Fortress

## July & August 2020

# BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC



Loving God, Serving Others,  
Building Community

## MISSION/VISION STATEMENT

### Worship

In our devotion we will come together to express our joy, love and thanks through worship.

We shall share our praise and dedicate it to God.

### Ministry

Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit we will show compassion and love by understanding, supporting and meeting the spiritual, the physical and the emotional needs of others.

### Evangelism

We are called as Christians to share the good news; living as examples of Christ in our everyday lives we can spread the word and love of Jesus.

### Discipleship

We as a church have a responsibility as Christians to encourage people to know God and to enable them to develop their relationship with Him through prayer, discussion, study and learning.

### Fellowship

We welcome to our church family those who want to belong. We show our love for others by sharing acts of fellowship in God's name.



At the time of compiling this magazine the UK government is gradually reducing lockdown restrictions but the advice is still to:

**“Stay at Home, Protect the NHS and Save Lives.”**

As the usual church services and activities continue to be suspended for the time being, please use the list on page 28 to pray daily for each of our groups.

Please pray also for the families of the bereaved, for those suffering illness, for all NHS workers and for all essential keyworkers in whatever field of employment.

*Do you need help at this difficult time*

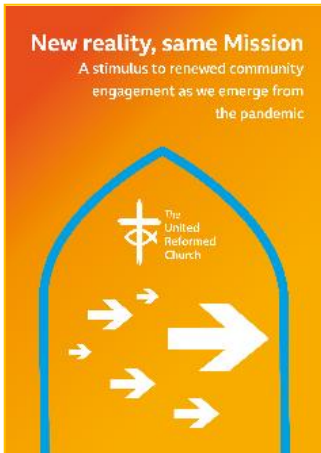
*If you are not going out during the coronavirus epidemic and you need shopping or a prescription collecting, we have a group of volunteers who can help.*

*If you need help please contact: Angela Smith  
0771 029 7377 or [angela.smith@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:angela.smith@rochdale.gov.uk)*

*If you are able to volunteer to help out at this difficult time, please call the same number.*

*Thank you.*

## Message from the Manse



**“Mission is finding out what God is doing, and joining in.”** These are words written by the former Archbishop of Canterbury Revd Dr Rowan Williams. I was reminded of them when I read a paper produced by the United Reformed Church in relation to where we are in lockdown. The paper is entitled: “New Reality, same Mission – A stimulus to renewed community engagement as we emerge from the pandemic.” It is a paper available on the URC website: <https://urc.org.uk/same-mission>

It has been compiled in part by the Church Related Community Workers in the URC and has some helpful suggestions and some searching questions about how, as churches, we might engage, or continue to engage, in God’s Mission.

The Missional Partnership Steering Group looked at one or two questions from it at their Zoom meeting last night (22<sup>nd</sup> June) and I think it is worth the Elders in every church looking at it and discussing it. And also for members to read it too.

There is anecdotal evidence that there are more people engaging in online Christian worship services than previously. One church which is offering live Zoom services has found people returning to church after many years. Is it that people are searching for meaning or understanding in these challenging times, or is it that it is less daunting going online than it is to walk through the doors of a church? It could be both.

What I feel is important is that as a church and Missional Partnership we seek God’s Vision, God’s plan, or to use Rowan Williams’ phrase, to find out what God is doing and joining in! And for that to happen prayer is essential.

I, for one, cannot wait to meet face to face again whenever that is safe to do. But, I also want the Church (not just Bamford Chapel and Norden URC) to spend some time on its knees seeking what God wants of her.

I know for sure that God will teach us something new of His love for us and for the whole world. I know God will do a new thing in His Church; I just hope we don't pass it by. But that we will prayerfully, discern what God wants and join Him in doing it.

***For His praise and glory! Amen***

***God Bless, Richard***



I want to start by thanking Joan and Debbie for their hard work in preparing the monthly times of prayer as we follow the Prayer 2020 initiative throughout 2020. I hope people have been appreciating/enjoying the times of prayer as we pray through various themes throughout this year.

We will continue to prepare the videos whilst we are unable to use the Church. So please follow them through July and August. The videos will be prepared and uploaded to the Church website for the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

***Thanks and God Bless, Richard***

### ***I Am Only One***

*I am only one, but I am one.  
I cannot do everything, but I can do something.  
What I can do, I ought to do,  
And what I ought to do, by the grace of God  
I will do.*

***Anon***

# Letter from the Synod Moderator



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

North Western Synod

Franklin Street, Eccles,  
Manchester M30 0QZ

20 June 2020

From Brian Jolly, Synod Moderator  
To members of Rochdale, Bury & North Manchester Missional Partnership Steering Group

Dear friends

## Ordination & Induction of Daniel Harris

You will be aware that we were planning a service of worship on 5 July for the ordination and induction of Daniel Harris. The date was set before the Coronavirus lockdown and restrictions, and the intention was for this service to be held in one of our church buildings. Clearly, this will not now be possible.

The officers of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, the Moderators' Meeting and the officers of the Assembly's Ministries and Faith & Order Committees have consulted over how ordinations can proceed when it is not possible for people to gather in large numbers. They have determined that because for the United Reformed Church ordination is an action of the gathered conciliar church, for an ordination to take place there will need to be a small physical gathering which represents the General Assembly, the Synod and the local, alongside a virtual gathering. The service of ordination and induction should be broadcast live [via Zoom or a similar platform] to allow others to be amongst the gathered church, although at a distance.

We had hoped that using these arrangements it would be possible to proceed with Daniel's ordination on 5 July, but the government has not clearly stated its intentions regarding the relaxation of restrictions. Therefore, we have agreed that Daniel's ordination and induction will be postponed. We have set a revised date of Sunday 2 August at 3pm. If, part way through July, it is clear that government restrictions are unlikely to allow a small physical gathering on 2 August for this purpose, we will, again, revise our plans - but we hope and pray that this will not be necessary.

This postponement is sad and disappointing news. But the delay of Daniel's ordination and induction does not mean that he will be unable to begin his ministry. Daniel will be using the month of July to begin to get to know the churches and communities within the Rochdale, Bury and North Manchester Missional Partnership in whatever ways are possible.

Please share this news with members of your churches, using this letter if it is the most helpful way to do so. As soon as further news on this matter is available I will be in touch again.

With my prayers for Daniel and the churches of the Partnership, and all good wishes

Brian

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Moderator: Rev Brian Jolly ([moderator@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:moderator@nwsynod.org.uk))  
Clerk: (interim appointment) Mr Mike Hart ([clerk@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:clerk@nwsynod.org.uk))  
Chair, Resources Committee & Trust: Mrs Jean Mullineux ([resources@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:resources@nwsynod.org.uk))  
Synod Treasurer: Mr Mike Hart ([treasurer@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@nwsynod.org.uk))  
Office: 0161 789 5583 Email: [admin@nwsynod.org.uk](mailto:admin@nwsynod.org.uk) Website: [www.nwsynod.org.uk](http://www.nwsynod.org.uk)

## Daniel Harris

As Brian, the Synod Moderator, writes in his letter to the Missional Partnership Churches, Daniel will begin his ministry in the Missional Partnership on the 1<sup>st</sup> July. For the first few weeks he will get to know people in the Churches and will also assist me with the services. So watch and listen out for Daniel!

Please hold him and his family (his wife and two children) in your prayers as they make the move north and settle in to life in Bury and serving the Rochdale, Bury and North Manchester Missional Partnership.

There will be 4 opportunities to meet Daniel via Zoom – two will have passed by the time you are reading this, but the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> are on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> July.

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 10.30am and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July at 1.30pm** lasting an hour. You are welcome to join us on Zoom when you can meet Daniel and have a chat with him along with others from across the Missional Partnership. Log in details are:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85342195535?pwd=VlhPQ21lQWJUUHhkZUtmcngveE4vQT09>

**Meeting ID: 853 4219 5535      Password: 860383**

**Thanks and God Bless, Richard**



*Thank you to all who donated to this year's Christian Aid appeal. As you know house-to-house collections were not able to take place due to Covid 19. However, the sum raised from the 20p collection and from private donations amounted to £308.*

*If you would still like to donate to Christian Aid please contact Margeret Ogden.*

# Church Gift Week

Sunday 19th July to Sunday 26th July 2020



Dear friends,

As you are probably aware, most churches and charities have been experiencing a major reduction in their income as they have had to close due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The financial situation at Chapel is the same, with our regular collections down by £3600 on this time last year, along with the value of our investments having fallen by £22,000.

Sadly, we have also had to cancel the Garden Party which is a good source of fund raising for the church, as well as the income from room rent which has also stopped.

At this time, we would normally have our annual gift day, where the clubs and organisations that use the church would provide a donation towards the on going up-keep of the building. The elders have decided however that this year, as well as groups providing donations, that individuals may also want to do the same to further support the church.

We are therefore having a **GIFT WEEK from the 19<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> July.**

In this week we are asking all clubs and organisations who normally contribute to gift day to forward their money, but also any individuals can do the same.



The ways you can contribute to **GIFT WEEK** are:

**1) by Cheque:** Please send your cheque to Anne Fitton  
20 Lawnswood, Castleton, Rochdale OL11 3HB  
making it payable to “**Bamford Chapel URC**”

**2) by Direct Giving to the church account:**  
Yorkshire Bank, Rochdale branch.  
Sort Code 05-04-64  
Account No 55645592

When you have given your donation could we please ask that you email Steven Gooding to let him know that you have donated at [stevengooding88@googlemail.com](mailto:stevengooding88@googlemail.com)

**3) by Cash:** This would need to be placed in an envelope with your name and GIFT WEEK written on, and hand delivered to the manse.

**GIFT AID:** If you normally Gift Aid your donations to church, this will be done automatically.

If not, and you are a UK taxpayer, please fill out the form enclosed, or on the Church website and send with your cheque or cash, or send to Anne Fitton.

We thank you in advance for your donations and pray you keep well at this time.

**Anne Fitton, on behalf of the Elders**

*It makes you Smíle  
Pancakes*

*A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, five, and Ryan, three. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the chance for a moral lesson. “If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, ‘Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.’” Quick as a wink, Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, “Ryan, you be Jesus!”*

Nigel Beeton from Parish Pump writes: Shirley, my Mother-in-Law, was 92 on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May. She can't walk well, so copying Major Tom's feat of 100 trips around the garden will not be possible, nor even 92, but she set herself a lockdown challenge of reading through the Bible. Facing the book of Numbers, I said that if she'd read the book, I'd write a poem based on a passage from Numbers! She's now in Deuteronomy, so here's my poem, from Numbers 20:1-13!

### *Speak, don't Strike!*

*Now Moses, a prophet of old  
Was obedient wise, and quite bold  
The Israelites he  
Led through the Red Sea  
(They generally did as he told.)*

*To get to that great Promised Land  
They had to cross miles of sand  
The Desert of Zin  
Caused them to grow thin  
No water or food was to hand.*

*The people, at this, then rebelled  
At Moses and Aaron they yelled,  
"You and your thick head!  
"We wish we were dead!  
"For drinks and good grub are withheld!"*

*For Moses, this wasn't that nice;  
He turned to the Lord for advice,  
"To the rock you must go,  
"And tell it to flow,  
"And water will come in a trice!"*

*So Moses went out straight away,  
But the people had caused such dismay  
That he disobeyed God -  
Struck the rock with his rod,  
But the water came out anyway.*

*Said God, (disappointed, of course):  
"I told you to SPEAK to that source,  
"You won't go, as planned  
"To my promised land,  
"You should have used words, not brute force!"*

*By Nigel Beeton*



## *Thanks for Prayers*

*Cameron and I would like to say a huge thank you for the prayers and good wishes following his short stay in hospital in May. It was quite a shock, but all happened so quickly there was hardly time for it to sink in.*

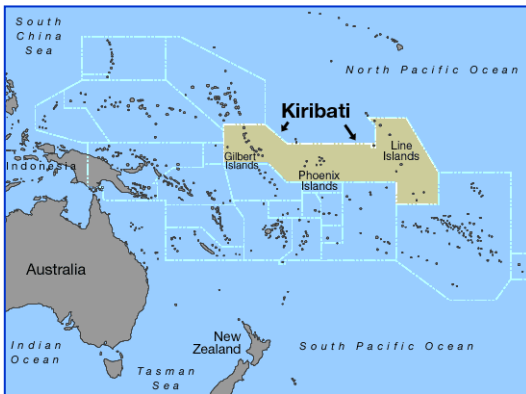
*He had had worsening chest pain over 24 hours and decided I should call an ambulance early on the Sunday morning. He was home the following Tuesday afternoon, having been diagnosed with a heart attack and having had three stents fitted!*

*He is now feeling much better, and sticking to the many tablets, diet and exercise regime.*

*We both agree that the prayers being offered up for us carried us safely through that time.*

*Thankyou, Jane and Cameron*

# Project 2020: Kiribati School



The Church in the World Group have been busy considering a 2020 Project, as you might expect to hear, via ZOOM! The Group is keen to continue our Mission and find a project where people greatly need help, and that we as a Congregation can give money and learn about the people involved and their

environment.

We have been introduced to a school on the Kiribati Islands in the Pacific Ocean by Daleen Ten Cate, one of the Synod's Missional Partnership Mentors who has listened to and been inspired by the Pastor that provides help and support to the school. We have shared the information with the Elders who have agreed to the group taking this project forward to the congregation for information. The Elders have agreed that, on this occasion, it is not possible to take to a Church Meeting for agreement. Given this different approach, whilst we are not worshipping and meeting together, the group are happy to answer any questions anyone may have prior to the official launch of the project on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

The islands are only a few metres above sea level; as Global Warming progresses, these islands are likely to be some of the first places which will go under as sea levels rise, possibly in the next generation.

The school is located on the Capital Island of Tarawa and serves children and adults with a wide range of disabilities from all the islands. The school is a non-governmental organisation but has some funding from the Kiribati Government and is also supported by the Australian Government. The funding covers some of the salaries of the staff, but they are in great need of additional funding to assist the children and

young people to become more independent. Independence is vital to equip these children and young people with skills they can use in adulthood. The drive for independence is ever increasing as these children and their families may eventually have to move to new lands e.g. Fiji, unless there is a halt to Global Warming and an increase in sea levels.

The school would like to have the monies to be able to fund the following:

- Photocopier
- Craft materials
- Electronic tablets for deaf children
- Velcro
- Building Blocks
- Raincoats
- Umbrellas
- Emboss Braille Machine
- Puzzles
- Adaptive cutlery and other equipment
- Cooking utensils
- Carpentry tools

We have had the chance to meet some of the school staff, the Pastor and one of the parents via ZOOM, and we were all overwhelmed by their willingness to engage with us, to share their work and for us to learn about their lives, culture and the impact of Global Warming.

For more information please contact one of the project group, or look up the school on Facebook, KSCSSN (Kiribati School and Centre for Children with Special Needs).

We are working with Steven, Church Treasurer, and Richard to work out how we can manage the collection of monies for this project, given we may not be meeting in the normal way.

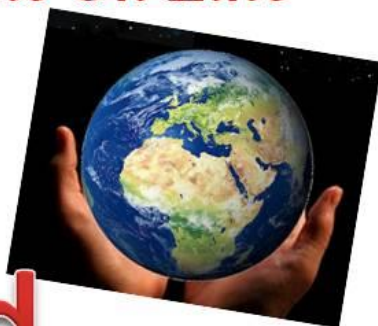


***Carole Greaves (On behalf of the Church in the World Group)***

*Bamford Chapel & Norden URC*



*At Home On Line*



**God  
and  
me**



Bamford Chapel and Norden URC

<http://www.bcnchurch.org.uk/>

## 2<sup>nd</sup> July - St John Francis Regis Patron Saint for Relief Workers

Do you ever admire relief workers? Those hardy folk who regularly appear on our TV screens, actively seeking out the disease-ridden, starving, destitute people of the world, instead of avoiding them, as most of us try and do.

**John Francis Regis (1597 – 1640)** could be a patron saint of relief workers. It all began back in the early 1600s when he was ordained a Jesuit priest in Toulouse, a town raging with plague. Instead of fleeing for his life, John Regis decided to stay and minister to the plague victims.

Somehow he survived, and was then sent by his bishop to do mission work in Pamiers and Montpellier. For years John taught and preached Christ's love, and also put it into action: he collected food for the hungry, clothing for the poor, visited prisoners, and even set up some homes for desperate ex-prostitutes.



In mid-September of 1640 John had a premonition of his approaching death. He took a three-day retreat in order to calmly prepare himself for it – and then he went back to work. Over Christmas, while helping the poor, he caught a chill. By 31<sup>st</sup> December he was dying of pneumonia, but at peace: he had been granted a vision of heaven, and could not wait to get there. His was a life well lived – he was “a good and faithful servant”.

**Courtesy of Parish Pump**

*Life is a journey that no one makes alone.  
The more people you touch along the way, the more  
meaningful and rewarding your time. – Anon*



## Raspberry Hazelnut Meringue with Raspberry Sauce

Summer is here and strawberries and raspberries are plentiful. Here is one of our family's favourite desserts. It is made with raspberries but could be made with any fruit.

### Ingredients

4 egg whites  
9 oz caster sugar  
½ teaspoon of vanilla essence  
½ teaspoon vinegar  
4½ hazelnuts ground  
½ pint double cream  
Tub of raspberries  
Icing sugar (for dusting)



1. Grease sides and base of 2 sandwich tins and line the bases with baking parchment.
2. Set oven at 180°C or Gas Mark 5
3. Whisk the egg whites until stiff with electric whisk and then whisk in sugar until mixture is very stiff and stands in peaks.
4. Whisk in vanilla essence and vinegar and then fold in prepared nuts.
5. Divide the mixture between the two tins and smooth the top with a palette knife.
6. Bake for 30 – 40 minutes. The top of the meringues will be crisp and the inside soft like a marshmallow.
7. Turn out on wire racks to cool.
8. Whisk the double cream and spread on top of one meringue. Pile the raspberries on top of the cream and cover with the other meringue.
9. Dust the top of the meringue with icing sugar

**Always fill the meringue at least 3 hours before serving; cake will then cut into portions without splintering**



Serve raspberry sauce separately.

## Raspberry Sauce

### Ingredients

8 oz raspberries

2 tablespoons of icing sugar (I use Splenda)



Beat raspberries and sugar in a food processor or liquidiser

**Barbara Redmond**



## Harvest Rainwater with a Water Butt



Save money and help the environment. Using the collected water is also better for your plants.

The easiest option is to purchase a water butt kit from a local hardware store or online. They come in a variety of shapes, sizes and designs ranging from £15 up to several hundred pounds. You could also buy an old plastic drum, but don't forget you will need to buy the parts separately to go with it.

Buy the biggest one you can afford and can fit in the space. You will be surprised how quickly you use up the water in your butt when we have a few dry days in a row.

**Tip – visit the United Utilities website, water saving tips page; they often have freebies to give away and discounted products such as water butts.**

Your kit will include: Water butt with tap already fitted, stand and water diverter. There should also be some fitting instructions.

To fit your butt you will also need: a hacksaw, drill, spirit level, screwdriver, tape measure and a pen.



Identify a suitable down pipe. Position the stand underneath and place your butt on top. Make sure your butt is level. You don't want it falling over when it's full of water.

**Tip – the stands usually have half-moon shapes in them. Place this directly below where your tap will be. It makes it easier when filling your watering can.**

Mark the height of your water butt on the downpipe. Cut the downpipe 3cm below this point with your saw.

Attach the rainwater diverter to the downpipe. This bit can be a bit fiddly.

Now measure 8cm down from the top of the water butt on the side nearest to the downpipe. Some water butts have pre-marked circles of slightly thinner plastic already at the right level.

Drill a hole for the water butt connector where you've marked or where one of the pre-marked circles are.



Push one end of the connector tube into the hole you've drilled. If additional fittings are provided screw these in place as per the instructions provided. Connect the other end to the diverter on the downpipe. The connector tube may be longer than you need and require cutting down.

You are now ready to go. All you need now is some rain!

**What happens when my butt is full? Will it overflow? Don't worry, when your water butt is full it won't just overflow. The diverter allows excess water to go back down the downpipe as normal.**

Why not connect more than one butt together to harvest even more water. All you need is a connector pipe.



There are also pumps available too if you want to be able to connect a hose to it.

**Tip – Why not add some guttering to your garage or shed and connect a water butt to those?**

Happy water harvesting and God Bless from the Eco Church Team.

*Jess Davies*

## Bee – happy

I noticed recently that a bee or two appeared in my conservatory every afternoon, but I kept the outside door closed to stop flies getting in. I was puzzled. I mentioned it to a friend, and she said, they are masonry bees. The facts: The mason bee is a gentle, non-aggressive, solitary bee which nest in walls rather than hives. They take pollen rather than nectar and so pollinate more effectively than the honeybee. They do not sting. Their numbers are declining. They are easy to catch and release into the garden, so I am doing my bit for conservation. Isn't nature wonderful! The things you learn in lockdown.



J. J. H. - Jars of Jennifer's honey anyone!

*Jennifer Lee*

## Diary of Edna Morland (aged 99) Her Childhood Memories of Bamford Chapel



Edna was born in Bacup on 22nd May 1921. Her father was a 'twister' in Lees Mill, Hooley Bridge, so when she was 5 years old the family decided to move to 11 Mine St, Heywood, and she has lived in Heywood ever since. She attended St Michael's C of E school, but her mother, Mary Elizabeth Bateson had been brought up 'chapel', so she and her mother and aunt began to attend Bamford Chapel. She remembers that her mother was once in a play at chapel.

Edna has fond memories of her time attending Sunday school, and her attendance record from 1928-29 is in our archives. Her younger brother Bill is also in the records in 1930 -31. The Sunday School Superintendent was called Mrs Richley, and her husband was the chapel minister at that time. "They were a lovely gentle and kind couple". She remembers the Bible stories she learnt at that time, and especially being invited to Christmas parties at the home of one of the teachers, and the games they played. One memorable game was standing on a tray with her eyes closed, being lifted a foot off the ground, and told she was going up in an aeroplane. (I remember a version of that when I was a child!) Summer trips were to Springfield Park, (Queens Park was her regular playground) and also walks in Carr Wood and Ashworth Valley.

Vivid in her memory are the shows and concerts she took part in. She has a photo of herself aged 5, with scores of other children, dressed as 'Chinese', (she is the one in the middle with plaited side bunches) and thinks it was a production of 'the Mikado'.



I said that they must have been Japanese then!! When she was about 8 she graduated to the chapel's 'Bamford Follies', and she loved to dance and sing, once performing a solo - but she was very nervous of that. Her 'starring role' was as the Mad Hatter in Alice in Wonderland, when she wore a huge top hat with a price tag on the front. She still remembers shouting "No room, no room", to the characters coming to the banqueting table. The Bamford Follies used to go to other chapels to entertain. Her cousin became a professional stage dancer, which was frowned upon so much by the family that she was ostracised; but Edna says her love of dancing was "in her blood"!

Other happy memories of that time were the Whit Walks lead by Bessie's of the Barn and the Brighthouse & Rastrick brass bands; and afterwards being invited into the "big houses" of the Beaumont's and the Healey's, and given sweets.

Lastly, she remembers watching black and white silent movies in the schoolroom, of Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keeton, to the sound of a piano. So our own 'Ian Newman film club' is not the first time films have been shown at chapel!!

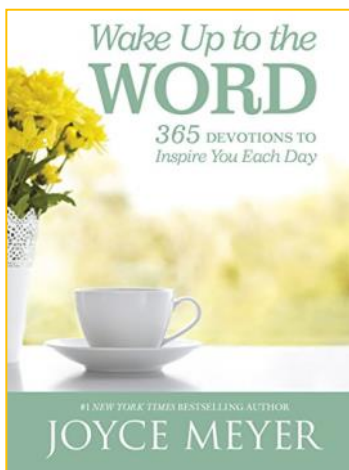
Edna left school at 14 and went to work firstly at Hargreaves Cotton Mill, Hooley Bridge. She was married to Ernest at Bamford Chapel on the 22nd of November 1947 and had a week's honeymoon in Blackpool. Ernest was 'Church of England' and wanted the family to attend St. Luke's in Heywood.



Edna has been a member there ever since, but always speaks of her time at Bamford Chapel with great affection and enjoys visiting the Chapel when we are able to bring her to events. She has an amazing memory and it has been a joy to relive these memories with her.

**Pat Stephenson**

## Recreated Refreshed; diverted; amused; gratified



Has there ever been a time in your life when you were so filled with fear or worry you just felt like giving up? Maybe there was a day or season when your frustration caused you to want to stop trying.

If so, I want to encourage you: You don't have to live in that despair. Instead you can live with confidence and assurance because Ephesians 2:10 says we have been "recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew]."

That means:

- Jesus is strong, so in Him, you have strength.
- Jesus is courageous, so in Him, you are fearless.
- Jesus is capable and confident, so in Him, you can do everything He has put in your heart to do.

Don't let fear or worry hold you back. Learn who you are in Christ and live the fulfilled life He offers as part of your inheritance from Him.

*For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated  
in Christ Jesus, [born anew].* EPHESIANS 2:10

Margaret Watson submitted this article (very appropriate for the current situation) from the 1<sup>st</sup> April entry from her 365 devotions book 'Wake Up to the Word' by Joyce Meyer, published by Hodder & Stoughton.

**NB: We have been waiting since April for Copyright Permission, which has now been granted by the Author and Publisher, solely for single use in this magazine. Please do not use this article elsewhere without obtaining your own written permission from the Author & Publisher.**



The double summer edition of the magazine was published for August/September in the year 2000, whereas now it is July/August.

These issues of the magazine were full of articles concerning the planning of the Bicentenary Celebrations the following year. More of these in our September issue.

## July 2000

“The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor. The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything.”

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August: Ladies Fellowship day outing to York (with coffee stop on the way). Approximate cost £9.00 (£9.00 – that wasn’t very much was it?)

“He who wants to enjoy the glory of the sunrise must live through the night.”

## August/September 2000

“My discoveries have been made in answer to prayer.” (Isaac Newton)

**PS: Did you know that in 1665 and the following year Cambridge University was closed due to The Black Plague. Newton had enrolled there and during this period he completed his much accomplished work on light, calculus and motion of celestial bodies.**

“If you are at the end of your tether, remember God is at the other end.”

**Lesley Sutton**

## Carers' Hub Rochdale

Since I became Geoff's fulltime carer, I have been impressed by the support that has been offered by the Carer's Hub in Rochdale. Amanda Halliwell, one of their support workers, contacts me on a regular basis to check on how I am coping with my new role. She is currently trying to match Geoff with a volunteer who will come to our home for an hour or so each week to allow me some time to myself.



This week there have been various activities organised online as part of Carers' Week: art and craft, cookery demonstrations, exercises, meditation and relaxation techniques, a talk about wills and Power of Attorney and a Bingo session. The Carers' Hub comes under the umbrella of "n-compass" and I thought you might be interested

to know something about it in case you know of anyone who would benefit from their services.

### n-compass

Established in 2009, n-compass is a not-for profit organisation determined to improve the lives of vulnerable people across the region. Originally an advocacy charity, n-compass developed to meet local need and changed its name to reflect that.

Since then, we have grown in line with the needs of the community we serve. Times change and so have we, by recognising current social issues such as the isolation and problems faced by the growing army of carers in the region and of course, the rise of self-harming amongst our young people.



n-compass is a dynamic organisation ready for new challenges and we are very proud of our track record, made possible by our team of 155 skilled and committed staff. It is their passion and energy which drives the values associated with our unique and dynamic organisation.

The current squeeze on public spending is challenging, but by working together with partners and commissioners, n-compass has continued to fulfil its pledge to provide local, innovative, and responsive services with a turnover of £6.4m in 2018/19.

Originally operating exclusively in Lancashire, n-compass is now expanding its footprint as well as the services offered, which include: **Advocacy, Carers Support, Counselling, Health & Wellbeing** services for both adults and young people.

## **What is Carers Support?**

Carers provide unpaid care by looking after an ill, older, or disabled family member, friend, or partner. It could be a few hours a week or round the clock. Many people act as carers without even thinking about the role they perform or the support they may be able to tap into.

The vast majority of care is provided by family and friends, who make up the army of unpaid carers. Social Services and the NHS rely on carers' willingness and ability to provide care, and without it they would collapse.

In 2011 a Census on the Provision of Unpaid Care revealed that there are approximately 6 million people providing unpaid care in England & Wales.

It is therefore vitally important that we support unpaid carers to maintain their own health and wellbeing, so that they can continue in their caring role for as long as they chose.

To make a referral or to volunteer please contact us on the details below:

**Contact us on Telephone 03450 138 208**

**Contact us via email at: [admin@n-compass.org.uk](mailto:admin@n-compass.org.uk)**

***Margaret Ogden***

## It Happened to Me



When I was mid-way through my veterinary training, I had the exciting opportunity of being able to spend some time in East Africa with one of my best friends from Vet school.

We had to complete 26 weeks of extra-curricular practical work in our holidays, some of which could be overseas, so my friend and I decided to go together and looked for somewhere to complete this training. Eventually we came across a Vet working with a Methodist missionary organisation, on a farm in Buhemba, Tanzania.

We also spent some time in Kenya, including a week staying with two very eccentric lovely British ladies who were loosely related to my friend's boyfriend! They lived in old colonial style on a farmstead in the foothills of Mount Kenya, surrounded by flat plains dotted with the mud hut dwellings of the people who worked for them, either on the farm or in the house. Every morning we would be woken up by one of the house boys bringing us tea, bread and sliced banana.

On a Sunday morning at breakfast, my friend Mags and I announced that we would like to go to church. The two ladies smiled and said that that would not really be possible as the nearest church was a long way away, and "you certainly wouldn't want to go to one of those dirty African churches!" (of course, that is exactly what we did want, especially as one of my dreams for the holiday was to hear a proper African gospel choir singing.)

Mags and I were not for giving up, so we went to our room, and prayed that God would find us a church. Having told the ladies that we were going for a walk, we set off away from the farm, and started across the vast open plain with only a few groups of cattle and dotted trees around. Eventually we saw a small road converging towards us, and then a car

bumping along it. Imagine our surprise when the car stopped level with us, a man wound down the window and said “are you going to church”!!! Grinning from ear to ear, we said yes we would like to, so he pointed into the distance and said, “follow us.”

Soon we could see the ‘church’ - a small open tent with a tarpaulin roof, facing several rows of small wooden chairs arranged outside. When we got there we were greeted warmly (we of course were the only white faces) and told that the service would start soon, but they were waiting for the preacher. One hour later (during which we had addressed the gathering and sung them one of our worship songs), we were greeted by an amazing sight, which started by the sound of singing in the far distance. Coming gradually into sight was an open cattle truck and standing up in the back was a full gospel choir complete with choir robes! It was a visiting choir for that day!

I still smile at the recollection of how fully God answered our simple prayer back then, right down to the detail of the choir.

*Jane Baines*



*Plant Sale*

*In the absence of a Garden Party  
this year there will be*

*a Plant Sale*  
*every Monday morning in July*  
*From 10 am until 12 noon*  
*in the back car park at Church.*

*All Plants £1*

*Lupins, Geraniums, Marigolds, Dahlias,  
Petunias, Lobelias etc.*

*All monies to go to Church Funds*  
*The Gardening Team*





Image by  
[Annika Knicker](#) from [Pixabay](#)

## As Fine Silver...

**Malachi 3:3 says: "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver."**

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study. They got to wondering what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study. That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest, so as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot, and then she thought again about the verse that says: **"He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver."** She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined.

The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed. The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, **"How do you know when the silver is fully refined?"**

He smiled at her and answered, **"Oh, that's easy - when I can see my image in it."**

**If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has His eye on you and will keep watching you. His aim is not to abandon or destroy you, but to refine you - until He sees His image in you.**

*Courtesy of Parish Pump*

## Some Thoughts about Vines



A while ago, Cameron and I were treated to a trip to the Yorkshire Heart Vineyard, near Wetherby. Who would have thought that Yorkshire had a vineyard!

Well, in the flat Yorkshire plain, there is a 17-acre area full of vines in various stages of development, a wine making area, a brewery and a small cafe/restaurant. Well worth a visit.

Naturally during our tour and talk about the life and care of vines, I couldn't help thinking about the words of Jesus in John chapter 15, where He describes our lives with Him as "being in the vine." Jesus is the true vine and His Father is the gardener. (*John chapter 15 1-17*)

To get you thinking, here are some facts about the care of vines:

- Vines are not simply planted into the ground; they have to be grafted onto a good rootstock. A good root and then the development of a good main stem is essential.
- The vine has to receive a lot of expert care and attention in order to produce any fruit.
- Vines do not produce any fruit for at least three years.
- During the growth phase, the vine branches have to be expertly trained along a certain path.
- The vine then needs to be pruned or cut back, almost brutally by 70%, otherwise it will produce too much leaf and no fruit.
- A cold hard winter is also beneficial for fruit production.

All of the above needs an expert gardener who cares for the plant and knows what it needs.

May God bless us in our growth as disciples of Jesus!

*Jane Baines*

## Weekday Opportunities for Learning & Sharing Fellowship

**(all suspended until further notice)**

- Monday:** 9.00 am Monday Maintenance Gang  
(who do work in or around the building)  
10.00 am Pastoral Meeting  
1.30 pm Bridge Club  
7.30 pm Focus on Prayer (God Squad Room)  
8.00 pm Monday Night Home Group
- Tuesday:** 9.00 – 11.00 am Toddlers' Group  
1.30 – 4.00 pm Indoor Bowls (Upstairs Hall)  
From 6.00 pm Rainbows, Brownies, Guides
- Wednesday:** 12 noon Luncheon Club  
6.30 pm Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association  
7.30 pm Home Group 'Exploring the Bible'
- Thursday:** 10.00 am Community Coffee Morning
- Friday:** 6.00 pm onwards Beavers, Cubs and Scouts
- Sunday:** 7.30 pm God Squad (for Teenagers)

## Fortnightly & Monthly Opportunities

- Tuesday:** **Stillness & Sharing** 1st Tuesday in the month  
1.45 pm in lounge for Coffee: Meeting 2 - 3 pm  
**Home Group** (Fortnightly)  
8.15 pm In Crèche Room
- Thursday:** **Ladies Fellowship** (2nd Thursday in the month)  
7.30 pm  
**Heritage Group** (3rd Thursday in the month)  
7.00 pm
- Friday** **Dementia Friendly Café** (1st Friday in the month)  
1.30—3.30 pm
- Saturday:** **Ian Newman Community Film Club**  
6.30 pm for 7.00 pm film (3rd Saturday in month)

Further information on the **weekly notice sheet** or visit the website at [www.bcnchurch.org.uk](http://www.bcnchurch.org.uk) or speak to an Elder.

## **BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN URC MAGAZINE**

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## **DATES FOR THE SEPTEMBER MAGAZINE**

**Articles to be handed in by:**                      Sunday 16th August

**Magazine to be completed by:**                      Thursday 27th August

**Magazine distributed:**                      Sunday 30th August

# **BAMFORD CHAPEL & NORDEN**

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### **Times of Services:**

**Family Worship :** 10.30 am : Holy Communion 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in month

**Evening Worship :** 6.30 pm : Holy Communion 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in month